

April 22, 2013

Subject: HB 4038 (Rep. Jenkins) Natural resources; nonnative species; bush autumn olive; include on restricted species list.

To Whom It May Concern,

As a land manager I have spent endless amounts of time and money removing autumn olive and fully back up the decision to add it to the State's restricted species list.

Autumn Olive, *Elaeagnus umbellata*, has taken over probably 40 acres at the nature center and dominated what should be recovering beech-maple forest. We have had to rent heavy equipment like wood chippers and trucks to reduce the large piles of brush we have created.

The energy that has gone into controlling thick monocultures of Autumn Olive has cost the center funds we do not have as a non-profit. I have attended stewardship conferences where researches have informed us of how it not only dominates the landscape but pollutes the soil with excessive nitrogen. This is not helpful as we reestablish oak trees on the property.

Please help us make a clear statement that some species need to be restricted. This is an important step in reducing its extent.

Thank you,

Jessie Schulte

Land Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator

<http://blandfordnaturecenter.org/volunteer>

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